

Today's News - Thursday, October 16, 2008

- Conventional wisdom about international practice is part myth, part reality: some interesting truths and falsehoods.
- Gloomy predictions for '09 on both sides of the Big Pond (is anyone really surprised?).
- The odds on five new Middle East towers getting built; which will be the tallest (and some amusing nicknames).
- Rybczynski's take on Piano's L.A. museum: "while it has its moments, falls far short of greatness" (great pix, too).
- Dyson thinks UK's planning system is "a blight on progress"; but he remains optimistic in the face of economic and environmental climate changes.
- Civic groups and advocates for the homeless face off in plans to "clean up" Philadelphia's upcoming cultural hub.
- A foundation helps build spaces that heal in crime-ridden neighborhoods.
- Future Systems' founders split: Kaplicky keeps the name; Leveté sets up her own shop.
- Brussat is (not unexpectedly) brutal about the Biennale: "Too bad the Doge of Venice isn't around to kick these Vandals out."
- Webb waxes wondrously about a California prefab: "a work of art that is intensely green."
- Q&A with RNL's Tal re: technology for landscape architects (architects, too) and what it means for hand drawing skills.
- One of Czech architecture's rising stars (he's only 23): "Sometimes, the trouble with modern architecture is that it is shouting out too loud."
- Calls for entries: I.D. 2009 Annual Design Review; and HotSeat 3 annual chair design competition.

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Global Truths: The conventional wisdom about international practice is part myth, part reality. Can you tell one from the other? Question 2: If work dries up at home, it's smart to shift your focus to international projects. Answer: False- Architect Magazine

Architects Hard Hit by Financial Crisis: Next year looks even more dismal...as the U.S. financial crisis fans out to Europe, Asia, and beyond, many fear that even foreign markets might not provide a reliable refuge for architects. - Architectural Record

Construction output to fall 3% in 2009: Experian issues bleak prediction, with housing activity suffering biggest decline of 14%...bleak figures were countered to some degree by a buoyant infrastructure market... - Building (UK)

The tallest building in the world: the contenders: Five new towers have been proposed for the Middle East...we ask how many of these will be completed -- and offer (extremely unofficial) odds on each ending up as the world's tallest. -- Eric Kuhne; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Woods Bagot [images]- Building (UK)

Renzo Piano's California Adventure Part I: At the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the clients were...Michael Govan and Eli Broad...The challenging setting is an unremarkable site on Wilshire Boulevard. It's hard to know which of these factors got out of kilter, but the Broad Museum, while it has its moments, falls far short of greatness. By Witold Rybczynski [slide show essay]- Slate

James Dyson: 'Planning is a blight on progress': The vacuum-cleaner magnate and engineer talks to Richard Vaughan about his axed Bath academy and why he's appalled by the UK's planning system - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Decorum on the Parkway: Nowhere in Philadelphia do rich and poor commingle so awkwardly as on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the cultural hub that is slated for a half-billion dollars' worth of investment and improvement...Civic groups want tighter rules for homeless - Philadelphia Inquirer

Public Spaces Meant to Heal: The TKF Foundation has helped pay for more than 120 public garden spaces in crime-ridden neighborhoods throughout the mid-Atlantic region. -- Anthony Lawlor [image]- New York Times

Future Systems couple in acrimonious split: Amanda Leveté to set up own 50-strong practice while Jan Kaplicky retains practice name - BD/Building Design (UK)

Doubleplusungood in Venice: Betsky declared..."we need some icons and some enigmas." To judge by the exhibits, that appears to mean wacky furniture and naked ladies...loose translation: "We need an architecture that questions reality." Modern architecture already ignores reality. Instead...modern architecture should question itself. By David Brussat -- George Orwell; Greg Lynn; Hadid/Schumacher; Barkow Leibinger; Philippe Rahm; Herzog & de Meuron - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Prefab, High-Concept and Green: An eco-friendly house in California has become an example for homeowners looking for creative ways to go green. By Michael Webb -- Sander Architect [slide show]- New York Times

Q&A with Daniel Tal, designer at RNL Design on technology for landscape architects: practical steps companies can take to better use new technology, where the demand for new technology is coming from, and what technology means for hand drawing skills. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

A rising star: Young architect building portfolio for the future: Ondrej Chybk is only 23 years old, but he's clearly one of Czech architecture's rising stars...just took first place in the prestigious House of Wood competition..."Sometimes, the trouble with modern architecture is that it is shouting out too loud"- The Prague Post

Call for entries: I.D. 2009 Annual Design Review: categories include environments, furniture, graphics, student work, etc.; deadline: December 1, 2008- I.D. magazine

Call for entries: HotSeat 3 annual chair design competition: Finalists to present their designs at the OFS Santa Monica Showroom opening on February 5, 2009; winning entry will be debuted by OFS at Neocon 2009, with the designer receiving royalty fees; deadline: December 26, 2008- Metropolis Magazine / OFS

Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: The Arsenale: Betsky's eclectic curating and the polished and thoughtful presentations of the exhibitors make it a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show. By Terri Peters -- David Rockwell; Jones|Kroloff; Thonik; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Greg Lynn; Droog; ArandaLasch; Gehry; Hadid; Philippe Rahm; An Te Liu; Barkow Leibinger [images]- ArchNewsNow

Morphosis: Madrid Social Housing, Madrid, Spain



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